श्री सभापति: चर्चा हो चुकी है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: सर, यह सीरियस मामला है।

**107. [The questioner (Shri A. Vijayaraghavan) was absent. For answer vide page 33.]*

**108. [The questioner (Shrimati S.G. Indira) was absent. For answer vide page 34.]*

New music channels by DD

*109. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Doordarshan would soon start two new music channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that presently Doordarshan's DTH platform has space to accommodate 33 channels;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Doordarshan has been making efforts to expand DTH platform to accommodate more channels; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati is in the process of acquiring additional hardware to increase the number of TV channels in its bouquet of free-to-air DTH service from thirty three (33) to fifty (50).

SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Sir, is it true that no other cost would be incurred on the DTH, apart from the initial installation expenses, and that one would receive round the clock telecast?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Yes, Sir. It gives me a lot of pride to say, "Yes, Sir". Once a consumer buys Doordarshan DTH set top box, no further cost will be incurred by the consumer. He would not have to pay monthly subscription fee. And, in fact, as has been mentioned in the later part of the answer, we have, at present, 33 channels and we are soon going to add 17 more channels. And, all the 50 channels will be free to air. Therefore, free to all the consumers throughout the country.

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: लोक सभा, राज्य सभा चैनल नहीं आता है ....(व्यवधान).....

श्री सभापति: आप कहेंगे तो विशेष व्यवस्था करा देंगे।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: करवा दीजिए।

श्री सभापति: अगर अच्छा बोलेंगे तो करवा देंगे।

SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Sir, my second supplementary is, when the hon. Minister has given reply with regard to the DTH, it is quite natural and relevant to ask how the Government has cleared the DTH proposal of the Sun TV despite the fact that the application of the Sun TV was not in accordance with the guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for a DTH licence. The Government must clear this point to remove the suspicion prevalent in the minds of public. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware that the Sun TV was trying to monopolise the electronic media in the South by preventing the growth of other television channels; whether the Government has received any representation on this issue. If so, the action taken by the Government?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I may humbly submit that the question, which the hon. Member has put, does not arise from the main question. However, if you permit me, I am prepared to answer because I don't want any legitimate question to go unanswered.

It was not the Sun TV that had applied for the licence, but it was some other company in which the Sun TV was only 20 per cent equity holder. We had consulted the Department of Company Affairs. And the Department of Company Affairs had given a clearance. Then, this matter was questioned in the High Court of Chennai, where the PIL was dismissed. It was further taken to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court not only dismissed the PIL, but also administered rebuke. I don't want to do that here.

श्री मोती लाल वोरा: माननीय सभापति महोदय, संगीत चैनल के बारे में कहा कि नहीं है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या प्रसार भारती की ओर से दूरदर्शन पर उर्दू चैनल, संस्कृत चैनल की कोई योजना है? दूसरे, यह कहा गया कि 33 चैनल्स को बढ़ाकर 50 चैनल्स किए जाने के लिए हार्ड-वैयर की व्यवस्था की जा रही है, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि प्रसार भारती को यह व्यवस्था करने में कितना समय लगेगा?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I must tell our senior most Memebr that the space for 17 more channels will be soon created. We are in the process of acquiring additional equipment. I cannot, perhaps, indicate the time-frame. In a time-frame of six months, I will try. I am afraid it will become an assurance, but even so, I have got to defer to the demands of my senior colleague, Shri Moti Lal Vohra. Sir, I am, again legitimately, proud of the fact that we have taken a decision to start Urdu channel. Urdu channel was a necessity. It has long been felt to be a necessity. Therefore, we have taken a decision. I must honestly confess to him, Sir, we have not yet bestowed our consideration on the need or viability of Sanskrit channel.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati being the only public broadcasting in the country, it should be our collective concern and effort both to ensure that they do well and they become competitive. In that regard, the proposal to have DTH is fairly welcome. But, Sir, my question is two-fold. The (a) part is, you have talked of hardware, what about the quality software? And Doordarshan, otherwise has terrestrial reach, DTH will have to become competitve. What special efforts are being undertaken to make the DTH of Doordarshan competitve with quality programmes?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, Ravi Shankar Prasadji is my predecessor. When a question is put by somebody as knowldegeable, as experienced as him, I need to answer it carefully. He knows Doordarshan DTH does not have only Doordarshan Channels and Government Channels such as those of HRD. We have, at the moment, 13 private channels. In the near future, we may have more than 15 private channels. Therefore, the preparation of software is the task of not only Doordarshan, but also of those companies which want to put their channel on our platform. Please understand, Sir, that DTH is a platform and not a channel.

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: माननीय सभापति जी, आजकल टीवी चैनल्स में क्लासिकल और सेमी क्लासिकल म्यूजिक और डांस दोनों का अभाव रहता है। आप जब भी टीवी का चैनल घुमाएंगे तो

आपको कानफोड़ू संगीत और चौकी-तोड़ नाच ही मिलेगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या वे कोई ऐसा चैनल लाएंगे, जिसमें सिर्फ क्लासिकल और सेमी क्लासिकल म्यूजिक और डांस हो? अगर वे ऐसा चैनल नहीं लाएंगे तो क्या वे टीवी चैनल्स को निर्देशित करेंगे कि वे समय सुनिश्चित करें कि एक निश्चित समय क्लासिकल, सेमी क्लासिकल म्यूजिक और डांस के लिए आवंटित करें? धन्यवाद, महोदय।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, Doordarshan, as everybody knows, provides entertainment, wholesome, healthy entertainment, both through classical music, semi-classical music, through classical dances, fold music. As for the private channel, Sir, it is neither desirable from philosophical angle,nor feasible from the legal angle to tell them what to do. And, will not be the person to do that.

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: हमारा कल्चर खराब कर रहे हैं।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: May I tell you, Sir, our culture has profound roots, which cannot be weakened through only channels.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will have to compliment the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting for improving the quality of the News Channel in Doordarshan. They are not only competing with the private channels, their quality has also improved. I have to compliment the Minister for this. Having said that, Sir, a lot of confusion is going around about the telecast of the programmes by the DTH. Now, Sir, the Ministry of Telecommunications has got a proposal to connect through telephone wires the programmes that are being telecast by various channels. That has now been envisaged by the Telecommunications Ministry. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting would collaborate with the Ministry of Telecommunications for telecasting the programmes of Doordarshan through the telephone wires which is convenient to the public .....*(Interruptions)*.....

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the hon. Member is obviously referring to the broadband technology. As and when the Ministry of Telecommunications asks for the channels of Doordarshan, we will be more than happy to oblige. Even otherwise, I will explore the prospect on my own. The idea of Doordarshan is to take the channels of Doordarshan to as many people in the country as possible. I thank him for the idea. ...*(Interruptions)*....

श्री सभापति: नेक्स्ट क्वैश्चन-110, ...(**व्यवधान**)... अब बोलने का क्या फायदा, आपका यह क्वैश्चन में नहीं जा रहा है। ....(**व्यवधान**)... मैं एलाऊ नहीं कर रहा हूं। बैठ जाइए।

Recognition of degrees awarded by IGNOU

*110. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established under an Act of Parliament and hence all universities in the country are bound to accept the degrees awarded by it;

(b) whether it is a fact that Guru Nanak Dev University has refused to recognise certain degrees awarded by IGNOU and other such universities; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the remedial action taken in the interest of degree-holders of IGNOU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Indira Gandhi National Open University(IGNOU) has been established by an Act of Parliament (No. 50 of 1985) and the degrees/ diplomas/certificates awarded by it are treated equivalent to the corresponding awards of other Universities in the country. The University Grants Commission has issued instructions on the subject from time to time.

According to the information furnished by the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, it is yet to recognize the MCA degree of IGNOU. Universities being autonomous, mutual recognition and equivalence of awards are decided by each University in accordance with its Statutes. The Association of Indian Universities encourages the practice of reciprocal recognition of Degrees by Universities.

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह जो विश्वविद्यालय है, जो यूजीसी की इंस्ट्रक्शन्स हैं, उसको नहीं मानता है, जैसे अभी गुरू नानक